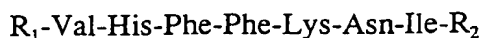


THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A peptide of the formula: Asp Glu Asn Pro Val Val His Phe Phe Lys Asn Ile Val Thr Pro Arg Thr; including substitutions, additions or deletions thereof, provided that said substitutions, additions or deletions provide a peptide that is capable of neutralizing or modulating the production of anti-myelin basic protein.
2. A pharmaceutical composition containing as an active ingredient a peptide of the formula: Asp Glu Asn Pro Val Val His Phe Phe Lys Asn Ile Val Thr Pro Arg Thr; including substitutions, additions or deletions thereof, provided that said substitutions, additions or deletions provide a peptide that is capable of neutralizing or modulating the production of anti-myelin basic protein, in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.
3. A method of treating multiple sclerosis in a patient in need thereof by administering to said patient an effective amount of a peptide of the formula: Asp Glu Asn Pro Val Val His Phe Phe Lys Asn Ile Val Thr Pro Arg Thr; including substitutions, additions or deletions thereof, provided that said substitutions, additions or deletions provide a peptide that is capable of neutralizing or modulating the production of anti-myelin basic protein, in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.
4. A method of treating multiple sclerosis in a patient in need thereof by administering to said patient an effective amount of a peptide of the formula:



and salts thereof, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, an amino acid residue and a polypeptide residue;

provided that R_1 and R_2 are not both hydrogen or hydroxyl at the same time; including substitutions, additions or deletions thereof provided that said peptide is capable of neutralizing or modulating the production of anti-myelin basic protein, alone or in combination, in admixture with a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier; wherein said method comprises administering sequential doses of said peptide.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein R_1 is Asn-Pro-Val- and R_2 is hydrogen or hydroxy.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein R_1 is Pro-Val- and R_2 is -Val.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein R_1 is Val- and R_2 is -Val-Thr.
8. The method of claim 4, wherein R_1 is hydrogen or hydroxy and R_2 is -Val-Thr-Pro.
9. The method of claim 4, wherein R_1 is Lys-Ser-His-Gly-Arg-Thr-Gln-Asp-Glu-Asn-Pro-Val- and R_2 is -Val-Thr.
10. The method of claim 4, wherein R_1 is Asp-Glu-Asn-Pro-Val- and R_2 is -Val-Thr-Pro-Arg-Thr.
11. The method of claim 4, wherein the peptide is administered intravenously, intrathecally or a combination of both.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the peptide is administered intravenously at a dose ranging from 1 mg/kg of body weight to 10 mg/kg of body weight.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the peptide is administered intrathecally at a dose ranging from 1 mg to 100 mg.

